

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A wrap-around absorbent shield for preventing at least one of fluids, semi-
2 fluids, and a mixture of either fluids or semi-fluids and solids from flowing from
3 one part of a subject's body to another part of a subject's body, comprising:
4 means for forming a semi-tight seal with the flesh of a portion of the
5 subject's body, wherein said sealing portion is located between the
6 flesh of a first portion of the subject's body and the flesh of a second
7 portion of the subject's body, wherein said at least one of fluids, semi-
8 fluids, and a mixture of either fluids or semi-fluids and solids is on said
9 first portion, and wherein it is desirable to prevent the flowing of said at
10 least one of fluids, semi-fluids, and a mixture of either fluids or semi-
11 fluids and solids from said first portion to said second portion; and
12 an absorbent material comprising at least a portion of the surface of the
13 wrap-around absorbent shield where the semi-tight seal is formed with
14 the flesh of the sealing portion of the subject's body;
15 wherein the combination of the semi-tight seal and the absorbent material
16 at the semi-tight seal forms a barrier which substantially prevents said
17 at least one of fluids, semi-fluids, and a mixture of either fluids or semi-
18 fluids and solids from flowing onto the flesh at the second portion of the
19 subject's body; and
20 wherein the semi-tight seal is not so tight as to cause discomfort to the
21 subject.

1 2. The wrap-around absorbent shield of claim 1, wherein the absorbent
2 material comprises at least one of sponge and sponge-like material.

1 3. The wrap-around absorbent shield of claim 1, wherein the absorbent
2 material comprises at least one of absorbent paper and absorbent polymer.

1 4. The wrap-around absorbent shield of claim 1, further comprising:
2 means for affixing the wrap-around absorbent shield to the subject.

1 5. The wrap-around absorbent shield of claim 4, wherein the means for
2 affixing comprises the means for forming a semi-tight seal.

1 6. The wrap-around absorbent shield of claim 4, wherein the means for
2 affixing comprises:
3 means for connecting two portions of the wrap-around shield so that the
4 wrap-around shield encircles the sealing portion of the subject's body.

1 7. The wrap-around absorbent shield of claim 6, wherein the means for
2 connecting two portions of the wrap-around shield comprises at least one of
3 Velcro™ strips, at least one button and buttonhole, at least one snap, and strips
4 of material which can be tied together.

1 8. The wrap-around absorbent shield of claim 1, wherein the means for
2 forming a semi-tight seal with the sealing portion of the subject's body
3 comprises:

4 a semi-rigid, resilient member for maintaining a shape which will maintain
5 the semi-tight seal with the sealing portion of the subject's body.

1 9. The wrap-around absorbent shield of claim 8, wherein the semi-rigid,
2 resilient member is located inside the wrap-around absorbent shield.

1 10. The wrap-around absorbent shield of claim 8, wherein the semi-rigid,
2 resilient member comprises at least one of a metal and a polymer.

1 11. The wrap-around absorbent shield of claim 1, wherein the means for
2 forming a semi-tight seal with the sealing portion of the subject's body
3 comprises:

4 an elastic material comprising at least one portion of the wrap-around
5 shield such that tension is applied to the semi-tight seal with the sealing
6 portion of the subject's body.

1 12. The wrap-around absorbent shield of claim 11, wherein the elastic
2 material comprises the absorbent material.

1 13. The wrap-around absorbent shield of claim 1, wherein the wrap-around
2 absorbent shield is used in at least one of a dental procedure, a dermatological
3 procedure, a surgical procedure, a hair care procedure, a cleaning procedure
4 using noxious chemicals, and a gastronomical procedure.

1 14. The wrap-around absorbent shield of claim 1, wherein the wrap-around
2 absorbent shield is used to protect a portion of the body that is at least one of
3 wounded, bandaged, and covered in a cast, and wherein the wrap-around
4 absorbent shield is used in combination with a substantially impermeable
5 enclosure to substantially cover said portion of the body.

1 15. A bib for protecting a subject from at least one of fluids, semi-fluids, and a
2 mixture of either fluids or semi-fluids and solids comprising:

3 a neck portion forming a semi-tight seal with the flesh of the neck of the
4 subject, said neck portion comprising:

5 an absorbent material comprising at least a portion of the surface
6 of the neck portion where the semi-tight seal is formed with
7 the flesh of the neck of the subject;

8 wherein the combination of the semi-tight seal and the absorbent
9 material at the semi-tight seal forms a barrier which
10 substantially prevents said at least one of fluids, semi-fluids,
11 and a mixture of either fluids or semi-fluids and solids from

12 flowing onto the flesh of the neck below the semi-tight seal;
13 and
14 an apron portion connected to said neck portion for covering at least a
15 portion of the chest of the subject, said apron portion comprising:
16 an outer surface comprising an absorbent material for preventing
17 said at least one of fluids, semi-fluids, and a mixture of either
18 fluids or semi-fluids and solids from flowing when said at least
19 one of fluids, semi-fluids, and a mixture of either fluids or
20 semi-fluids and solids falls upon said outer surface; and
21 an inner surface comprising a liquid repellent material for
22 preventing fluid on the outer surface of the apron portion from
23 coming through the material of the apron portion and coming
24 into contact with the covered portion of the subject's chest.

1 16. The bib of claim 15, wherein the absorbent material comprising at least a
2 portion of the surface of the neck portion where the semi-tight seal is formed with
3 the flesh of the neck of the subject is comprised of at least one of sponge,
4 sponge-like material, absorbent paper, and absorbent polymer.

- 1 17. The bib of claim 15, wherein the neck portion comprises:
 - 2 a first portion;
 - 3 a second portion; and

4 means for connecting said first and second portions so that the neck
5 portion encircles the neck of the subject.

1 18. The bib of claim 17, wherein the means for connecting said first and
2 second portions of the neck portion comprises at least one of Velcro™ strips, at
3 least one button and buttonhole, at least one snap, and strips of material which
4 can be tied together.

1 19. The bib of claim 15, wherein the apron portion and the neck portion are
2 one of permanently connected and detachably connected.

1 20. The bib of claim 15, wherein the bib is used in at least one of a dental
2 procedure, a dermatological procedure, a surgical procedure, a hair care
3 procedure, and a culinary procedure.